ALL-NEW X-MEN® 039

THE BLACK VORTEX

CHAPTER 5

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

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Previously in *The Black Vortex*...

Billions of years ago, an ancient race named the Viscardi were gifted an object of immense cosmic power by a Celestial. This artifact, known as the Black Vortex, transformed the user, imbuing them with cosmic energy. However, the power of this object caused the Viscardi to turn on each other, annihilating their own race from within.

Peter Quill and Kitty Pryde recently discovered that the sadistic Mister Knife, who is actually Peter's father, J'Son, had recovered the Black Vortex. Forced to act, Peter and Kitty stole the artifact and recruited the Guardians of the Galaxy and the X-Men to help battle Mister Knife. Though the group disagreed over what to do with the artifact, Gamora, the elder Beast, and Angel chose to submit to the Vortex. Now cosmically aware, the three enhanced heroes took the Black Vortex and rocketed away with a new mission—to reshape the universe in their image. As the three discussed what to do with their new powers, they were ambushed by Ronan the Accuser, who stole the Black Vortex. In retaliation, Gamora, Beast, and Angel began to lay waste to the Kree homeworld, Hala.

Meanwhile, Knife's flying fortress appeared in the sky above the remaining heroes and fired a blast directly at Spartax's moon. In the wake of the moon's destruction, the Guardians and X-Men were able to escape from Knife's Slaughter Lords. Though the group was at a loss for what to do next, help may have arrived in the form of the young Cyclops and his father, Corsair!

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WHAT DID YOU *THINK* WOULD HAPPEN, LAURA?!

DID YOU THINK I WOULD *LOVE YOU*?!

DID YOU THINK I WOULD NOT *SEE* WHAT YOU *REALLY* ARE?!

AAAGGHHHH!

AAAGGHHHH!

THERE SHE IS.

I TOLD THEM YOU'D BOUNCE BACK.

CYCLOPS?!

EASY THERE, LAURA.

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. THEY ALL SAID IT TOOK A LONG TIME TO HEAL.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HOW ARE YOU HERE?

ALL VERY GOOD QUESTIONS.

SO YOU'RE *ALL* MAD AT ME?

FOR ABANDONING THE TEAM?

AR

NO! PLEASE!

I DIDN'T ABANDON THE TEAM, BOBBY, I REUNITED WITH MY DAD.

I LEFT TO BE WITH HIM.

ALL I KNOW IS YOU LEFT US FOR A MAN WITH A SASH.

EXCUSE ME...

...IS THIS GOING TO GO ON MUCH LONGER?

BECAUSE IF IT IS, I'D LIKE TO JUMP OUT THE AIRLOCK AND ACCEPT THE COLD EMBRACE OF SPACE DEATH NOW.

I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

I AM GROOT.

WHERE'S JEAN?

AVOIDING *HIM.*

YOU NEED TO MAKE THAT RIGHT.

I'M SORRY YOU'RE ALL MAD.

WHAT DID YOU *THINK* WE WOULD BE?

HAPPY FOR ME AND MY DAD.

WE CAN BE BOTH THINGS.

HEY...

HEY, YOURSELF...

MR. KNIFE'S FLYING FORTRESS.

WHERE IS IT?

WHERE IS THE BLACK VORTEX?

THANE, YOU WILL SPEAK TO ME WITH *RESPECT* OR YOU WILL NOT SPEAK.

DON'T TALK TO ME THAT WAY, KNIFE.

HOW ARE YOU TO HOLD TO YOUR PROMISES TO ME WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE BLACK VORTEX?

TELL ME THAT! *TELL ME!*

IT IS BEING PURSUED.

KILL HIM NOW.

I THINK THIS HAS ALL GOTTEN AWAY FROM YOU AND YOU'RE TOO *ARROGANT* TO ADMIT IT.

GUT HIM. BLEED HIM OUT.

I FIND YOUR LACK OF FAITH DISHEARTENING.

I THOUGHT WE HAD EACH OTHER'S TRUST.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL.

PULL OFF HIS HEAD.

YOU'RE *LEAVING?*

RETURNING TO MY FLOCK.

I'VE CLEARLY MADE A HUGE MISTAKE.

WELL YOU'RE CERTAINLY MAKING ONE NOW.

THE MOON OF SPARTAX.

IT'S NOT HERE.

KEEP LOOKING, CZAR DOON.

THE BLACK VORTEX WAS DESTROYED IN THE BLAST, MISA. I'LL BET YOU A--

WE KEEP LOOKING.

THE EARTHERS ARE STILL OUT HERE.

THEM WE KILLED, DELPHINIA.

NO ONE SURVIVED THIS.

MAYBE NO ONE.

NO ONE.

AND IF *SOMEHOW* THEY MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED ALL OF THIS...

...I DOUBT WE WOULD EVER SEE THEM AGAIN...

...NOT AFTER WE DOMINATED THEM SO COMPLETELY.

EXCEPT YOU FORGET HOW STUPID EARTH CREATURES ARE KNOWN TO BE...

TRUE...

"...ALWAYS REPEATING THE SAME MISTAKES OVER AND OVER."

ARE YOU READING MY MIND, JEAN?

I ALREADY DID.

SO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING OUT HERE.

YEP.

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T READ MINDS WITHOUT PERMISSION.

YEAH, WELL...

OOPS.

YOU LOOK GREAT.

STOP IT.

YOU DO.

EVERYWHERE I GO I READ PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS AND THEY ARE THINKING THESE THINGS ABOUT ME AND IT JUST--

OH, POOR YOU.

IT'S NOT FLATTERING. IT'S *DISGUSTING*. I'M NOT A THING--

BUT TO BE FAIR, PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PRIVATE.

I KNOW, BUT STILL...

I WAS TRYING TO BE NICE. YOU DO LOOK GREAT.

YOU DO TOO, ACTUALLY.

SPACE SEEMS TO AGREE WITH YOU.

IT DOES, BUT I MISS EARTH FOOD SO BAD I COULD CRY.

I'M SURE...

...WE DON'T OWE EACH OTHER ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.

YES, WE DO.

I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE WE GROW UP TO FALL IN LOVE AND GET MARRIED AND WHATEVER...

...IT DOESN'T MEAN...

YEAH?

I'M--I'M A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW.

YEAH... SO AM I, I THINK.

YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE. EXACTLY.

NOT SORRY TO INTERRUPT...

...THEY HAVE A PLAN...

LIAM

THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE KREE EMPIRE

OKAY, SO HERE'S WHERE WE'RE AT...WE CAN'T JUST *ATTACK* MY DAD'S FLYING FORTRESS.

(...ARE WORDS I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SAY IN A SENTENCE.)

WE DON'T HAVE THE MANPOWER. THE SLAUGHTER LORDS ARE TOO STRONG, AND THERE'S NO ONE OUT HERE WE CAN TRUST AGAINST THEM.

THAT IS NO EXCUSE!

WE TRY! *WE* PREVAIL!

DRAX, IT'S MATH! WE *CAN'T WIN.*

I HATE MATH!

WHAT DO WE NEED THAT WE DON'T HAVE?

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT WE NEED OUR CRAZY, COSMIC-POWERED GAMORA, BEAST AND ANGEL.

AND WE *NEED* THE *VORTEX.*

I'LL TAKE A SMALL TEAM AND SCOOT BACK DOWN TO THE SURFACE OF THE SPARTAX MOON AND DISTRACT THE SLAUGHTER LORDS SO YOU CAN GET A HEAD START.

I AM GROOT.

AND THE REST OF US WILL GO TRY TO FIND AND TALK SOME SENSE INTO THE OTHERS.

SCOTTY, I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH YOU GOING DOWN THERE.

COME ON, DAD. I'LL TAKE A COUPLE OF THE BIG GUYS WITH ME.

AW, HE MEANS *ME.*

I'LL GO WITH YOU TO FIND THE OTHERS, STAR-LORD.

I CAN TALK TO HANK McCOY.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

WHAT IS THAT?

IT'S A DISTRESS CALL.

ANYONE WE KNOW?

IT'S COMING FROM... *SPARTAX.*

PLEASE, ANYONE! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.

THIS IS MA SAVAGE AT SAVAGE ORPHANAGE ON SPARTAX.

P-PLEASE. THE CHILDREN!

OY!

OKAY, WE DO THAT FIRST.

WE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE.

DRAX: KIDS.

NO. YOU STICK TO THE PLAN.

I'LL GRAB A HANDFUL OF US AND HEAD DOWN TO SPARTAX.

HOPEFULLY IT'LL ALL BE TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE WE EVEN GET THERE.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

WHAT'S *THAT* NOW?

IT'S *ANOTHER* DISTRESS CALL.

SERIOUSLY?

OH... MAN!

IS THAT--?

WELL, WE FOUND GAMORA.

IS THAT--?

THAT IS HALA.

OH, COME ON!

SHE DECLARED WAR ON THE KREE EMPIRE?!

THEY MUST HAVE STARTED IT.

WHOEVER IS COMING WITH ME... LET'S GO.

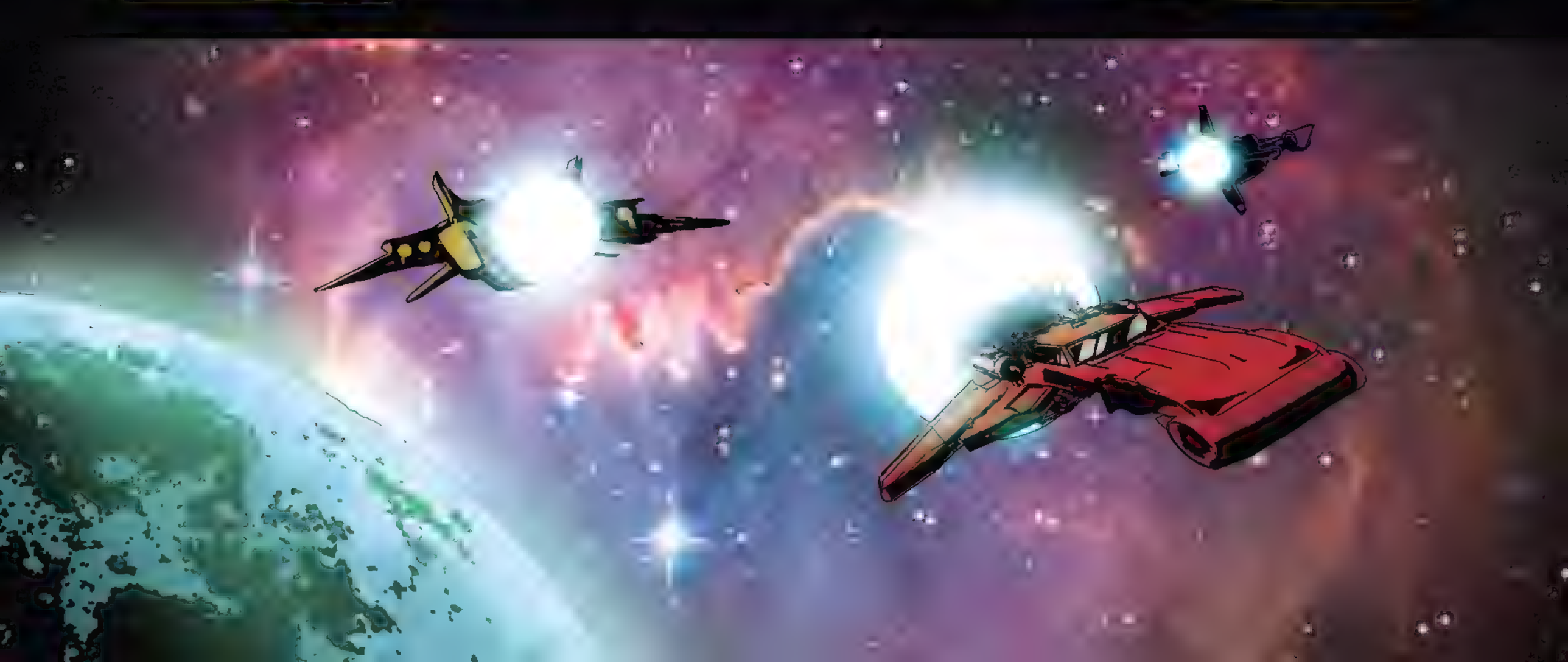
THERE'S ENOUGH OF US.

ONE TEAM TO HALA, ONE TEAM TO SPARTAX.

WE'LL HEAD DOWN TO THE SPARTAX MOON AND THEN MEET UP WITH YOU AT THE ORPHANAGE.

I NEED SOMEONE ON MY TEAM THAT CAN PILOT.

I'LL HAVE YOU THERE IN NO TIME.



NO LIFE-FORMS.

I TOLD YOU THE SLAUGHTER LORDS WERE GONE.

LOOK AT YOU--ALL KNOWING HOW TO WORK A SPACESHIP.

I'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR A BIT. IT'S PRETTY EASY ACTUALLY. ALL INTUITIVE A.I.

I AM GROOT.

THAT'S NOT GOING TO GET OLD FAST.

BE NICE. HE'S A GENTLE SOUL.

OF COURSE HE IS. HE'S A ***TREE.***

YOU EVER MEET, LIKE, A PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE TREE?

I MISSED YOU, BOBBY.

WHAT IS THAT?

IT PICKS UP ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS.

I WANT ONE.

THERE'S SOMETHING OVER THERE.

WHERE?

THERE.

THERE'S NOTHING THERE.

NOT ACCORDING TO--

OH, NO...

FASSHHOOOOM FASSHHOOOOM FASSHHOOOOM

I AM GROOT!

NICE!

FASSHHOOOOM FASSHHOOOOM FASSHHOOOOM

AAAAAAA!

BOBBY!

GLARKIN' EARTHERS!

DON'T!

DON'T KILL 'EM IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO. KNIFE'S ORDERS.

GAAAFFHH!

THEY'RE WORTH MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD.

UNTIL WE GET THE VORTEX, WE NEED THEM.

FZZZZ

TO BE CONTINUED...
IN GUARDIANS TEAM-UP #3!

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

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FOLLOW THE SAGA OF THE BLACK VORTEX IN

GUARDIANS TEAM-UP #3

COVER ART BY MIKE MAYHEW AND RAIN BEREDO

ON-SALE FEBRUARY

~~THE BLACK VORTEX ALPHA #1~~

~~GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #24~~

~~LEGENDARY STAR-LORD #9~~

~~ALL-NEW X-MEN #38~~

ON-SALE MARCH

ALL-NEW X-MEN #39

GUARDIANS TEAM-UP #3

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #25

NOVA #28

LEGENDARY STAR-LORD #10

ON-SALE APRIL

CYCLOPS #12

CAPTAIN MARVEL #14

LEGENDARY STAR-LORD #11

THE BLACK VORTEX OMEGA #1